

THE CONSTITUTION.

Published Daily and Weekly.

ATLANTA, GEORGIA.

THE DAILY CONSTITUTION is published every day in the week, and is delivered by carriers in the city, or mailed, postage free, at \$1 per month, and \$10 for three months, or \$10 a year.

THE CONSTITUTION is for sale on all trains en route to Atlanta, and at news stands in the principal southern cities.

ADVERTISING RATES depend on location in the paper, and will be furnished on application.

CORRESPONDENCE containing important news solicited from all parts of the country.

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THE CONSTITUTION,

Atlanta, Georgia.

ATLANTA, MARCH 1, 1885.

INDICATIONS for the South Atlantic states taken at 1 a. m.: Partly cloudy weather, local rains, northerly winds, slightly warmer in northern portion, stationary followed by a slight fall in temperature in southern portion, falling barometer in northern portion, falling, followed by rising barometer in the southern portion.

Whether England and Russia reach the point of war over the Afghan trouble or not, it is certain that a strong war feeling prevails in Russia. It is this feeling that may drive the czar into hostilities.

JOHN C. C. KILMER in one of his courts, recently disposed of fifty-two cases in two days. This is the kind of expedition the taxpayers want, and an indication of it by the judges of the other circuits would soon clear the dockets.

The senate is greatly troubled over the occasional publication of its executive proceedings. The best plan to dispose of the matter would be to abolish the bogus secrecy which is thrown around executive sessions and let the people know fully what their leaders are doing. There is no need for star chamber methods in the United States.

The burning of the New Jersey capitol yesterday removed one of the oldest historic buildings in the United States. It was built at a time when New Jersey held a more important position in the union than she now does, and has aided the eloquence of many who passed from within its walls to the capitol at Washington.

THE HIGGINS CASE.

At one of Mr. Eugene Higgins, of Maryland, appears to be giving the Blaine organs a good deal of trouble, and this trouble is largely shared by the independent republican papers. It is also shared by a number of "associations" in Baltimore. Mr. Eugene Higgins, as our readers know, was made appointment clerk of the treasury by Secretary Manning, taking the place of a republican. Immediately there arose a howl from some of the Blaine organs, which was taken up by the others, and in a very short time, the mugwump organ had taken it up—so that for some days past Mr. Higgins has been quite the most notorious man in the country.

No doubt the readers of THE CONSTITUTION have frequently wondered what the trouble is with Higgins. We have made the same inquiry, but the necessary information cannot be found in the newspapers. We have taken pains to read all the attacks made on Higgins, and all the objections to his appointment that have been made in the newspapers. The trouble seems to be, so far as we are concerned, to discover that Higgins is a very poor man, and that he is not a republican, but a democrat, and who is a success. No "charges" have and none will, but his name is so that he is a little profane the vague objections urged by the Blaine organs and faintly echoed by the mugwump papers, as they are called, in Baltimore come from those who do not like or nothing in them.

No one expects the Blaine organs to be satisfied with any democratic appointments. Their objections to Mr. Higgins are precisely the objections that they have urged against Mr. Cleveland and against every other democrat. They have a theory (which is also held by some of the mugwump editors) that, under the civil service rules no democrat can be appointed to office. The appointment of Higgins upsets everything connected with this theory, and the result is that the Blaine papers are in a great rage. The objection to Higgins is, as we have said, that he is a very active democrat, and that he is a friend of Senator Gorman, who is likewise a very active democrat. All this means that he is very near the place, from a democratic standpoint, for so far as we have observed, there is absolutely no charge against his character, or his personal fitness.

We have before us a ponderous editorial from the New York Evening Post on "The Higgins Case," but there is absolutely nothing in it to prove to show that Mr. Higgins is not a proper person to fill the office to which he has been appointed. It is a very solemn editorial, and the writer of it undoubtedly felt that he was assuming a dreadful responsibility. He thinks that Higgins should not have been appointed, but he does not say why, and he does not say that he will be removed, without giving a single reason why he should be removed.

The Evening Post will most likely discover before very long that all it has said relative to the Higgins matter is farcical and preposterous. Undoubtedly President Cleveland cordially indorses the appointment. There is absolutely no reason why he should not. The duties of Mr. Higgins's office are not very important except to a certain class of office-seekers and office-brokers that exist in Washington. It is the office-brokers who are negligent, and when such papers as the Evening Post indorse this indignation they make themselves ridiculous. Mr. Higgins is merely a clerk. His office is not a political one; it is not important enough to come under the civil service rules. He was appointed because it was necessary for the secretary of the treasury to have some one in the place in whom he might repose reasonable confidence. Mr. Higgins's predecessor was removed because under Folger and McCulloch, outside politicians and office-brokers could obtain information from the

office of the appointment clerk as to the names of applicants for office and of those who were working for them. This system of official leakage was scandalous, and Secretary Manning promptly stopped the hole. That is the secret of the opposition to Higgins. The politicians and office brokers want some one in the place who will give them much-needed information.

THE BULL AND THE BEAR.

If England has eaten humble pie, as the conservatives say she has, the facts have not been disclosed. England never laid claim to Merv and the country of the Turcomans; Russia did, and annexed that land; and now the question comes up, where is the boundary line between Afghanistan and Turkistan? An international commission has been appointed to settle it, and pending such a settlement the Russians and the Afghans are not to make any forward movement. When Russia tried a few years ago to obtain control of Afghanistan by bribing the Afghan ruler, England promptly invaded Afghanistan and set up a new emperor who has remained loyal to her, and now when Russia seemed to be ready to march on Herat all England was ready for war, and Russia was then ready to settle the delimitation question by arbitration.

The truth is, Russia may prove to be right. The disputed territory lies on the great Turcoman plains. Turcoman slave-hunters long ago turned it into a land of desolation, and neither Afghanistan nor any other power has exercised the slightest authority over it in a half a century. It is a valuable district, except as a roadway to Herat and India. There are no monuments, no surveys, nothing at all to fall back upon, and the boundary question will have to be one of compromise. The question really is, what is the real boundary for the two great countries most deeply interested? M. Lessor, a Russian member of the joint Anglo-Russian commission, claims the line should begin at a point on the Heri Rud precisely one hundred miles south of Sarakhs, and to run thence easterly fifty miles to the waters of the Kishk, thence northeast to the valley of the Murghab, striking that stream at Penjeh, a point a little over 100 miles from Merv. From Penjeh the line is to run northeasterly to Khoja Saleh, the nearest point on the Amu Daria, as the Oxus is now called. This point is also the eastern terminus of the line proposed by England. The main difference between the two is the strip a hundred miles wide of land in the valley of the Heri Rud, the Kishk and the Murghab, which Russia takes under M. Lessor's plan and the Afghans obtain under the English scheme. The proposed Russian line would pass about one hundred and fifty miles south of Merv, and about seventy-five miles north of Herat; the proposed English line would run about fifty miles south of Merv, leaving Penjeh in Afghan territory.

The disputed territory is generally level, wholly uninhabited and agriculturally valueless—a sort of no man's land that has been overrun almost from time immemorial by robbers. Russia claims all the Turcoman plains, and England claims all the Turcoman plains, and for that matter the people of Herat are not Afghans. Russia is not without a case, and her willingness to submit the matter to arbitration, shows confidence in her claim. Russia's ulterior designs may be very aggressive, but it is plain she has made no advance and set up no claim at present that does not deserve investigation and the calm, cool sense of arbitration. It is not at all probable that war will arise over the question as at present presented.

THE CONDITION OF BUSINESS.

The business situation may be described as one of quiet confidence that things will slowly but steadily mend. There are gains in several directions. Iron, which is the great barometer of business, is in better demand at slightly increased prices. The profits of the iron-makers in Ohio and Pennsylvania are very slim, but still they are lighting the fires in their furnaces, and it is thought they have considerable orders on hand. If there is an increased demand for iron and steel, there is an improvement in many trades, and more construction is contemplated in course of completion.

The improvement in the iron trade, the continued excess of exports over imports, the demand for goods, and the quiet hopefulness that seems to everywhere prevail, all point to better times. Not that the year is to be one of prosperity, but one of depression with a hopeful lining. The size of the crops next fall, and perhaps the question of peace or war in Europe, will determine what the times are to be after Christmas. It is plain that from now until Christmas we must labor and wait. To the people that wait all things come, and after a while we are destined to see the clouds roll away and all the activities of the land brought into full play. If, in the meanwhile, every man would strive to get out of debt, and if out to stay out of debt, of prosperity and activity would be hastened. We should produce and pay by overcropping ourselves in business. Patience, prudence, energy and still upper lip are needed. Hasten the kind of times that all want. All are satisfied that bottom has been touched, and that there will hereafter be a steady improvement in nearly all trades and branches of business.

There has no influence on the popularity of the skating rinks of the country. For a man to fall and crush in his left ear and shoulder blade is a very mild form of disipation.

The Boston Journal will doubtless shudder when it learns that President Cleveland wears a bottled coat when he is at work.

HARRIS has one consolation—he is a better looking man than any of the men composing the court martial.

HARRIS succeeded in covering the other day, and the great men composing the court martial went in secret session to discover whether any discrepancy to the late secretary of war was intended. The judges remained in secret session until they had digested sandwiches, and then fled into court frowning heavily. The court announced that Harris should make a formal apology for sneaking, after which his trial was resumed.

OWING to a pleasant visit the engagement of spring in Atlanta has been postponed.

THE new Nashville Union is about as neat a paper as one could wish to see. Its edition on the intensive system, as the managers say—much in the Union has evidently come to stay.

It appears to be a bigger man than the

one. Much of Fraed's poetry is on the very delicate side. Its popularity is attested by the frequent quotations going the rounds of the press. If not a great poet, Fraed nevertheless numbers his admirers and readers by thousands.

From Dr. Appleton & Co. we have received "Fifty Years Ago," a study of primitive nervous systems, this is a work of profound scientific interest.

"Fifty Years Ago," by Thos. J. Murry, published by White, Stokes & Allen, New York, is a little book of thirty-two pages. Little as it is, it appears to exhaust the subject of anatomy.

White, Stokes & Allen, New York, send us through Messrs. Phillips & Crew a dazling Easter souvenir entitled "Birthdays Flowers." It is gorgeous in color and trimmings, and the poetry is by Susie B. Skelving. This house issues "Easter Bells" and similar gems.

Messrs. Thayer & Rose, of this city, are handling a work of great practical utility and value. It is "The Practical Home Physician." This large volume of over eleven hundred pages, contains all the medical knowledge that families and non-professional persons are likely to have any use for. Many of the leading physicians of the country, embracing a number of well known southern practitioners, speak of "The Practical Home Physician," in the highest terms. There is no quackery in it. It is written by physicians, and it contains the results of their experience. It is a work of great practical utility and value. It is a work of great practical utility and value.

THE Graphic complains about the pieces of wire left on the streets by the telegraph linemen. After awhile it will be the Fifth Avenue sign to change their bean-catchers from the left shoulder to the right.

SEVERAL localities are annoyed by a pest which they call "polished candy" about on door steps and in front yards. In Richmond, Ind., the other day, two young ladies picked up a package of candy and popcorn on their doorstep, and very naturally proceeded to devour it. They did not eat all an account of the candy being so good, the confections. In a few moments they were taken violently ill, and nothing but an emetic saved their lives. A chemist examined the candy and found that it had been dosed with a solution of arsenic or strychnine. No clue could be found to the perpetrator. Under the circumstances, people should make it a point not to eat confectionery when they find it in the road or on their doorsteps.

The republican storm center seems to be central over Higgins. This fact is equal to ten thousand reasons why Higgins should be retained. Any man that the Blaine organs object to is, in the very nature of things, a good man.

Reporters from the north and west state that the peach crop is hopelessly ruined. In Ohio and Indiana the severe weather has killed many trees, and there is no hope for the others. The same is said of the New York and New Jersey orchards. Even at the worst there is little danger of the failure of the peach supply. The Delaware peninsula, however, the fact is, the southeastern railroads will produce peaches enough for the nation. The dangers to which this fruit is subjected in the north and west will lead the country at large to rely mainly upon the southern peach orchards. With the rapidly improving facilities for shipping, the peach crop of the south will grow more confidently upon the time when they will control the market. They will yet find a bonanza in their orchards.

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BRIEFS ABOUT BOOKS.

A delightful book for a leisure hour is "Wit and Humor of the Age," a handsomely bound, illustrated volume, from the publishing house of Taylor & Bland, Atlanta, Ga., and Albany, N. Y. It contains the best work of our modern humorists, embracing selections from Mark Twain, John Phillips, Artemus Ward, Burdette, Underhill, Ed. Perkins, Bill Nye, and a host of other favorites. With amusing stories, and a host of other favorites. With amusing stories, and a host of other favorites. With amusing stories, and a host of other favorites.

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MACON, Ga., March 21.—[Special.]—William Harper, night watchman at the carriage shop of the Collins Manufacturing company, was arrested to-day for a long series of thefts of cloth, used for trimming vehicles. Harper has been in the service of the company for nearly two years, and has the faithful confidence of the officers. A few days ago, circumstances led to the suspicion that he was stealing the trimming and body cloth over which he was sent to prevent others from appropriating. The cloth is costly, some of it being priced at four dollars a yard.

Yesterday Mr. R. S. Collins swore out a search warrant, and had Harper's room on the corner of Fourth and Pine streets searched. A small trunk was found in which were packed four pairs of pants, two coats and two vests made of fancy blue, with costs and vests to match, and a number of other articles which were found in the trunk. It was also discovered that he had presented several friends and relatives with suits made of the same kind of cloth.

Harper was arrested, and had his preliminary trial before Justice M. H. Freeman at eleven o'clock this morning. He positively denied having stolen the cloth, but admitted that he had taken some of the goods which were found in the trunk. He said that he had bought the goods of the Collins Manufacturing company, and that he had sold them to his friends and relatives. He was committed to jail.

Mr. J. C. Fehner, foreman of the Collins Manufacturing company, testified that he had seen Harper in his room, and that he had seen him with the goods which were found in the trunk. He testified that the clothes were exactly the same as that used by the company, and that he had seen Harper in his room, and that he had seen him with the goods which were found in the trunk. He was committed to jail.

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For the Exposition. MACON, Ga., March 21.—[Special.]—A large party will leave Macon in the morning to visit the New Orleans exposition. The route will be by the Central and Georgia Pacific railroads. The party is composed of Judge T. J. Simmons, Colonel W. C. Corbett, wife and son, Misses Willie and Corbett, of Rome, Georgia, and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Jones, of Macon. They will be accompanied by Mr. J. C. Fehner, foreman of the Collins Manufacturing company, and Mr. J. C. Fehner, foreman of the Collins Manufacturing company.

Two Alarms of Fire. MACON, Ga., March 21.—[Special.]—At 10 o'clock this afternoon an alarm of fire was sounded from the city hall. The department responded promptly, and the fire was extinguished. The alarm had been sounded by the burning of a chimney in the residence of Mr. J. C. Fehner, foreman of the Collins Manufacturing company. The fire did not do any damage, and the firemen did not enter the residence.

Personal and Otherwise. MACON, Ga., March 21.—[Special.]—Mrs. E. H. P. Robinson, of Columbus, was in Macon to-day with her mother, Mrs. Hamilton, on Magnolia street. She is visiting her mother, who is in Macon. Mrs. Robinson is a very interesting woman, and her mother is a very interesting woman.

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Miss Stella Davis, of Perry, arrived in Macon this morning. General Superintendent M. J. O'Brien, and representative of the central division W. H. Clayton, of the Southern express company, were in the city to-day. They spent the day in business, and will leave to-morrow.

The volunteers' musicale on Monday night will be a pleasant affair. The guests will be limited, only the honorary members and the lady friends of the company being invited to attend. Mr. E. L. Brown has prepared an interesting program.

The Central railroad is preparing to build one hundred new freight cars. Fifty will be built in the Macon shops, and fifty at Savannah.

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